

WYCOMBE NEED A REPEAT!

WYCOMBE Wanderers' tremendous end-of-season run, which produced 13 goals in three games, will be put to the test tomorrow night (Wednesday) when they take on Teramo in the Anglo-Italian Inter-League Semi-Professional tournament.

Included in those 13 goals was the 4-0 triumph over Pistoiese in their first Anglo-Italian Trophy match. On the same night, Teramo were holding Enfield to a goalless draw at Southbury Road and by all accounts the Italians were unlucky not to come away with a victory.

Teramo have a higher league placing than counterparts Pistoiese and would look to be a more difficult prospect for Wycombe tomorrow. And once again, it will be a question of Wanderers breaking down the notoriously efficient Italian defence.

In the Pistoiese game, it was soon obvious that the Italians had come with one aim in mind — not to concede goals. Their plans came unstuck in the second half when Wanderers produced some memorable football to send their opponents home well and truly beaten. Terry Reardon's goal, for instance,

was the sort of effort that comes off once or twice a season — a 25 yard lobbed volley.

But Pistoiese also showed that they were capable of scoring goals by breaking quickly with long passes from defence to their fast forwards. Teramo adopted the same policy against Enfield and if the Italians get in front, they will bolster their defence even more.

At Enfield, Pierluigi Angeloni was their most dangerous player, hitting the woodwork in the first half and generally troubling the defence with his skills. He blotted his copybook, however, by getting himself booked for a trip on one of the home players.

Although Enfield fielded only one reserve, most peo-

ple felt they were below their best as the Isthmian League title was still in the balance at the time. Indeed, the Teramo game was the first of four consecutive matches that week.

Nevertheless, Teramo's defence had to hold the powerful Enfield front runners and they will be out to do the same to Wanderers' forwards.

Much will depend on whether Wycombe can recapture the form they showed against Dagenham and Ilford. Since then they have played a couple of friendlies against Hungerford. An early goal would prove a real bonus, for the Italians would have to come out of defence, making Wycombe's task that much easier.

Wanderers have a full strength squad to choose from and it is unlikely that any of the three new faces who played against

Hungerford on Friday will play. The Blues, in fact, will probably field the team that beat Pistoiese.

Teramo arrive in London today (Tuesday) and will be entertained by Wycombe officials tonight. Before the game, an Er-col chair and plaques will be presented to Teramo officials.

Next month, Wycombe will fly to Italy for the return legs in the competition. The Blues leave on June 11 with matches against Pistoiese on June 12 and against Teramo on June 16. The final is on June 20 and Wanderers arrive back the following day.

After the first set of matches two weeks ago, it would seem that Wimbledon are Wycombe's chief rivals for a place in the final. The finalists will be the clubs from each country with the best overall records and like Wycombe, the 'Dons' won their first match 4-0.

Of the Italians, Monza would appear to be the strongest side, having taken a point from Scarborough in a 0-0 draw. However in the Scarborough and Stafford Rangers section, the duels could cancel themselves out with drawn matches, leaving the way clear for two clubs from the other sections to contest the final.

Something that must be troubling the tournament organisers is the number of cautions handed out to the Italians in the first matches. Two Udinese players were sent off in their 3-2 defeat at Stafford Rangers while a total of 10 Italians were booked in the six matches, including those at Wycombe and Enfield.

It seems the Italians will soon have forfeited the £500 sportsmanship money awarded to each club by Rothmans. For each booking, a club loses £100 and £400 for a dismissal. That leaves Udinese £300 in the red!

On a more serious note, it is pleasing to see that Udinese will be fulfilling their fixture against Scarborough tomorrow despite the earthquakes which shook Italy last week. The area of Udine was badly affected.

The other matches tonight are as follows: Scarborough v Udinese, Stafford v Monza, Wimbledon v Siracusa, Nuneaton v Benevento.